

Committee on Ways and Means

Reform of Mandatory Spending Programs

Summary

The Ways and Means spending reconciliation legislation includes a number of improvements to programs within the Committee's jurisdiction, including Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), child support, trade, foster care, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The bill includes a version of welfare reauthorization policy approved by the Human Resources Subcommittee that *increases spending on welfare reform reauthorization policies* by \$1 billion over five years compared with current law. This includes additional funds for child care to support more parents in work, as well as the President's healthy marriage initiative.

Other changes in programs under the Committee's jurisdiction would improve program operation and provide for savings during the coming years:

- (1) ***Repeal the "Byrd Amendment"***: Repeals the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act, commonly known as the "Byrd Amendment," which requires that duties collected under antidumping and countervailing duty orders be distributed to eligible producers that supported the initial petition that resulted in the imposition of duties.
- (2) ***Gradually reduce federal matching rate for child support administrative expenses***: Reduces the federal "matching rate" for child support administrative costs, bringing it in line with other major programs like Medicaid, food stamps, and foster care and adoption.
- (3) ***Pay more SSI lump sum payments in installments***: Expands a current law requirement providing for the payment of certain SSI lump sum payments in three equal installments over six month intervals.
- (4) ***Clarify eligibility for foster care and adoption assistance payments (Rosales case)***: Clarifies and reinforces the current law rule that a child is eligible for federal foster care or adoption assistance based solely on the eligibility of the original home from which he or she was removed.
- (5) ***Clarify federal matching of foster care administrative costs ("Candidates" rule)***: Specifies that claims for federal matching funds for administrative costs for "candidates" for federal foster care benefits involving children placed in the home of a relative who is not a licensed foster care provider are limited to no longer than 12 months.